

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending. Applicant expresses appreciation for the indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 20-31 were objected to for being misnumbered. In accordance with the foregoing, claims 20(second occurrence) through 31 have been renumbered as claims 21-33. Claims 1, 3 and renumbered claims 21-33 are amended. Claim 2 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Claims 23, 24 and 28-31 were objected to due to informalities, which stand corrected by the above amendments.

Claims 1, 4, 10, 20, 21, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.§103(a) as being unpatentable over Hooper et al. (US 5,257,622). In order to expedite prosecution, Applicant amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner. Independent claims 1 and 21 have been amended to include the limitation of claim 2, indicated as allowable subject matter, and thereby place claims 1 and 21 in condition for allowance. The remainder of the claims, being dependent thereon, are likewise in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the instant rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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